



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 18.48 Thursday, November 29, 2012 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**



Independent photo by Bob Mytych

Chief Judge of the 34th District Court Tina Brooks Green, at right, officially swore in the newly elected Sumpter Township Board and its deputies at a special ceremony Nov. 19 attended by more than 50 people. From left are Trustee Don Swinson, Trustee Peggy Morgan, Deputy Clerk Esther Hurst, Clerk Clarence Hoffman, Deputy Supervisor Craig Moody, Supervisor Johnny Vawters, Treasurer John Morgan, Deputy Treasurer Karen Armatis, Trustee Alan Bates, and Trustee William Hamm. After the swearing-in the board and its supporters adjourned to the Tin Pan Saloon for a celebration, paid for by supporters and no public funds.

Winter Fest set to hum along all day Saturday in downtown Belleville

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce has a day full of fun planned for Saturday as Winter Fest 2012 takes off.

Runners and walkers will begin the day with registrations for their Jingle Bell Fun Run/Walk, starting at Horizon Park gazebo at 10 a.m. to earn money for the school district's Education Foundation.

Ice skating at the Fourth Street Square, courtesy of BYC, really starts on Friday from 2 to 9 p.m. and then starts up again on Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and continues on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The ice sculptures will be displayed on Main Street for the public to enjoy.

Other events on Saturday:

- Festival of Holiday Trees at the museum, noon to 7 p.m. on Saturday;

- Polar Express movie showings and gingerbread cookie decorating at the library from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

- Main Street, from Third to Fifth streets, will close at 3 p.m. until after the parade and tree lighting ceremony.

- Local holiday entertainment is on tap from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Fourth Street Square with performances by Bethany Bible Choir, BHS's Conte & Ambassadors Chorals, and the Belleville Community Chorus.

- The Winter Fest lighted parade, called "Shiny Neon Christmas", starts at 6 p.m. at Belleville High School and comes down West Columbia to Five Points and then up Main Street to the museum. There will be a

special guest appearance by Mrs. Michigan America 2012 Lisa Hemmie. Awards will be presented for floats and best business window decorations.

- Christmas tree lighting will be held on the lawn of the museum after the parade. Santa will greet children at the Belleville Methodist Church and the church will have live animals and actors showing the first Christmas.

- Fireworks over the lake are expected

to start at 7:30 p.m. and the Belleville Fire Department's 100 Chinese lanterns will be lit and set off before or after the fireworks. This all is at the Denton Road bridge.

- Local restaurants will be taking part in a Soup Crawl from 2 to 6 p.m., with 4 oz. tastes in disposable cups.

- Horse and buggy carriage rides will be available for \$5 per person from 2 to 6 p.m.

VB Schools Education Foundation's Jingle Bell Run/Walk is Saturday

By Bob Mytych
Independent Sports Editor

The Jingle Bell Fun Run and Walk will kick off Winter Fest on Saturday morning once again sponsored by the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation.

Runners and walkers will take to the streets of Belleville beginning at 9:45

a.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Horizon Park Gazebo on High Street. The gazebo is the start and finish line for all races.

The cost is \$25 for the 5K event, (19 and older), \$20 for the 5K (students 18 and under), and \$5 for the 1K Fun Run for all

(continued on page 10)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

School Board chooses Kelly Owen as fill-in board member

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

There will be one or two meetings held by the School Board in December and on Monday the board selected Kelly Owen to be the temporary board member needed to fill a board vacancy for the month.

In January, Owen and Kathy Kovach, who both were elected to the board in November, will be seated as regular members.



Kelly Owen

After board member Brenda McClanahan resigned Nov. 7 following election to the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, the school board had just 30 days to fill the vacancy or the Wayne County school board (RESA) would have to select someone.

Owen and Joseph Baynesan applied to the Van Buren board for the single temporary position.

Although the interviews for the position had been set for 6 p.m. Monday, that meeting was scrubbed because of a necessary board disciplinary hearing. The two applicants were put on the regular agenda for interviews.

Kovach did not apply for the temporary position because she said she was going to be out of town for the next board meeting, Dec. 10. She also said she did not want the board to have to split their votes on the two newly elected board members for the one position.

She light-heartedly told the board that Owen got "lots more votes than me" referring to Owen's 7,042 votes to Kovach's 6,492 – both winning totals.

"The voters just told us 10 minutes ago who they wanted on the board," Board President Martha Toth said, referring to Owen who had been elected Nov. 6.

"I'm impressed with Mr. Baynesan's qualifications and encourage him to run for a board seat in the future," Toth said.

Board Trustee Scott Russell invited the two applicants to speak if they wanted to and



Baynesan took him up on the offer.

Baynesan said he has lived in the school district for 14 years and has been teaching since he was in junior high school. He and his wife Janelle are both professional educators and their two children were born in the district and are attending the Van Buren schools.

He currently is program director of the

Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program at Wayne State University. He has lived, studied and worked in Africa, the Middle East, Canada and, for the last 25 years, the state of Michigan. He said he speaks English, Hebrew, and Amharic.

He said he would bring a different perspective to the board, even if he was on for a short time.

"I feel it would be arrogant of us to overrule the voice of the voting public," Toth said and the board unanimously appointed Owen for a term of Dec. 1-31.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the board:

- Accepted \$30,026.58 in grants to teachers at six school buildings by the Van Buren Education Foundation. VBEF president Steve Quinn presented the check to the board and called out the various grants for a variety of teaching aids. Sheila Patton also presented a \$6,000 check to BHS Principal Abdul Madyun from Atchinson Ford for its Drive 4 UR School event in October;

- Approved 2012-13 budget amendments presented by Director of Finance Karen Moffitt that showed \$248,687 less in revenue than expected (including \$215,515 less in State Aid than planned), but also \$26,000 less in expenses. The fund balance of \$226,602 on July 1 at the end of the 2011-12 fiscal year is now expected to be \$679,066 next July, Moffitt said;

- Discussed the administration's suggestion to post a job opening for a Student Recruitment Coordinator position that would be volunteer or part-time. The person would be a strong writer and work to get more students into the district and do public relations in the community. The board informally told School Supt. Michael Van Tassel to go ahead with the job posting, but to be sure to give the person a budget so the person could follow through on ideas to promote the district;

- Approved the Mackinac Island field trip for Savage Elementary fourth graders May 30-31;

- Approved the requested termination of Jesse Donoghue, who worked at McBride Middle School for two months, for other employment as of Oct. 30;

- Approved the hiring of Cheryl Jensen as a food service worker at Edgemont as of Nov. 13, and Matthew Rodriguez as a technology specialist as of Dec. 10, replacing Michelle Kovach who moved on to other employment;

- Approved minutes for a disciplinary hearing held Nov. 7 that resulted in the permanent expulsion of a BHS student for violating the drugs and paraphernalia



Photo courtesy Amy Pearce

Members of the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation presented \$30,026.58 in grants at Monday's meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education. From left are Amy Pearce, Steve Quinn, Connie Testorelli, Sheila Patton, Diane Patton and April Welsing. Foundation members not present for the photo are Justin Juriga, Kelly McWilliams, Stephanie Mikulski, Kelly Owen, Paul Petrimoulx, Tabitha Pinter, Brad Traskos, and Kelley Villa. "The foundation board looks forward to this time of the year," said treasurer Diane Patton. "We love seeing the innovation of our district teachers."

sections of the Student Code of Conduct. A second hearing that evening resulted in the permanent expulsion of a second BHS student for violating the Michigan Revised School Code and the Van Buren Public Schools Student Code of Conduct;

- Approved minutes for a disciplinary hearing held Nov. 12 that resulted in the suspension for 30 school days of a Savage Elementary student. The board determined the student violated the district's code of conduct concerning weapons, hostile behaving, and destruction of property;

- Noted the Dec. 10 meeting at the BHS

mini auditorium at 7 p.m. will discuss the Plante Moran study on projects that could be done with the available sinking fund money, including a new roof for Owen school at a cost of more than \$1 million. Also the board will discuss the future of the two closed elementary school buildings – Haggerty and Elwell – and what to do to move forward; and

- Heard Supt. Van Tassel say that he has given board members information on some laws pending at the state level, one of which would force the district to lease closed schools for \$1 a year.



Independent photo by James Oztman

On Nov. 16, there was a big pile of debris from the David C. Brown Funeral Home fire, as workmen cleaned away the part of the building that burned on Aug. 5. "There's nothing worse than a fire," said Brown, noting the insurance company provided less than half of which it will take to rebuild that part of the 65-year-old building and he had to go to the bank. Brown said neighbors should see framing going up at the end of this week or beginning of next week. He said the new part will be the same size as the old, with a different configuration and upgrades. Currently Brown's is using the former Katherine Rose Flower and Gift Shop across the street as its temporary viewing and funeral chapel.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Sumpter to send resolutions to school, library boards

Sumpter Township wants to make sure certain officials know exactly what they are thinking and their concerns – specifically those who sit on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education and the Belleville Area District Library Board.

On Tuesday, the Sumpter board voted unanimously to have township attorney Rob Young complete separate resolutions to send to the two boards by their next meetings – Dec. 10 for the school board and Dec. 11 for the library board.

Sumpter's issue for the school board is Elwell Elementary School, at one point scheduled for demolition but now just setting vacant. The school board plans to talk about the futures of its two closed schools – Haggerty and Elwell – at its 7 p.m. Dec. 10 meeting at Belleville High School.

Sumpter wants Elwell put to good use. In fact, the township thinks Elwell would make a fine, large, main library, with the library satellite, perhaps, in Belleville where the present library is now.

It would be a lot cheaper for taxpayers if they used an available, solid building instead of constructing new.

The resolution for the library board would say pretty much the same thing as the one to the school board.

Township attorney Young said a resolution is the best way to communicate the township board's ideas. Let's communicate before it's too late.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

A lady who lives on the west side of Sumpter Road, just south of Bemis, called to report a problem in that area on Saturday.

She said she thought she didn't get any mail because her box was empty on Saturday, but then she saw her mail in her front yard and ditch and road. She ran around picking it all up so it wouldn't blow away. She said there were bills in her mail and other important things.

She said she called the post office and they connected her with her postal carrier. The carrier told her the same thing happened to other houses down the road, in that area about eight to ten.

The carrier suggested the lady call the *Independent* so people will be alerted to get their mail as soon as it is delivered.

The lady said maybe kids did it to be funny, but she said it really isn't funny at all.

The folks over at the Belleville First United Methodist Church have informed me that Don and Doris Bluhm of Belleville will be celebrating their 69th wedding anniversary next month.

They were married Dec. 27, 1943.
Happy anniversary.

We received a little news item from Jessica Hassell, who writes the charming reports on the dogs and cats at Michigan Animals Rescue that we publish each week as a public service.

Jessica reports that Spaghetti the cat from last week's paper is on a sleep-over after the couple saw her in the *Independent* last week. "Yippee!" said Jessica, who is so happy when one of the pets at the shelter



gets a forever home. We're pulling for Spaghetti's forever home.

Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township met on the same night this week, Tuesday, because VBT had to hold a special meeting.

Sumpter met much longer than usual and VBT met much shorter, just a half hour meeting under the hand of newly elected Supervisor Linda Combs.

I had checked in advance to make sure VBT would be recording its meeting in case I missed some of it because I was in Sumpter to begin with. I needn't have worried. It was recorded for re-showing and I also had it recorded on my TV.

After the meeting, VBT's cable expert Allie told me everything went fine for the meeting, except Linda didn't drink her water at the beginning of the meeting.

Allie explained that sip is the signal to her in the cable room to start the recording and cable casting of the live meeting. Supervisor Combs has run lots of meetings in the past, but this was a new routine for her and she didn't sip her water at the beginning.

"Sometimes I just have to use my intuition to know when to begin," Allie said.

She said there is a little note on the back of the supervisor's nameplate that reminds the supervisor to sip the water. Who knew?

34th District Court Judge David Parrott

addressed the Sumpter Township board at its meeting on Tuesday to congratulate them on their new terms and to apologize for not attending the swearing-in. He said his mother and father and brothers invited him to Florida for Thanksgiving and he made the plans well in advance.

"I enjoy swearing in officials who do so much for the community," Judge Parrott said. "I know you're going to do a great job."

He said he grew up in Detroit and his father was a Detroit Police Officer. But, he always liked small towns and Sumpter, to him, is a small town.

"There is not a finer police department around. There is not a finer chief around," Parrott said of Sumpter's department. "They are operating under the radar and doing a fine job," he said of their operations without a lot of publicity.

Judge Parrott left the Sumpter meeting to hurry on to the Belleville Rotary Club meeting. He is president of the club now and had to get to it.

After he left, Gene Taylor (Cpl./Chief of Belleville PD) arrived to give the board red MADD ribbons to remind people not to drink and drive for the holidays. He also gave his annual speech on not letting friends drive drunk.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

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Letters

City remains open, willing to assist library

To the Editor:

I am not one to write many letters to the editor. Over the years you get used to the fact that there are errors made in reporting, that folks have different agendas and or say things that can be taken the wrong way, but when I read your article "District Library Board reports Belleville officials don't want new library building within the city limits" I felt compelled to write this letter.

I was one of six Belleville officials who met with the library board and I am 100% sure that at no time before, during or after that meeting did we convey to the District Library Board that we did not want the new library building within the city limits; in fact the City has gone on record to state just the opposite.

The statement that "Apparently the City of Belleville is not interested in giving the library property or its parking lot to the library board, as the board had requested in February" fails to acknowledge the important fact that the City cannot legally give away property, a fact that the District Library Board is fully aware.

The meeting that took place was one that centered around information gathering and the question to be answered was ... "Was anything off the table?" The City did convey that its preference was not to have the library front Main Street which is our prime retail property. During the meeting several locations were discussed including the area where the current library is located,

use of the parking lot in the development, the Grace Baptist site, as well as others. Other suggestions were made as options to explore based on the fact that the library apparently needs three acres to build a nearly 50,000 square foot facility.

City officials were open to future discussions as the District Library Board explored alternatives, refined plans and had details, or challenges such as the current parking ordinance. The City Officials again attempted to gain an understanding for the size of the facility (over 4 times the current size), and the cost with no success.

Clearly, the current library is in need of an overhaul/expansion and there are certainly direct benefits for having the library remain in the downtown, as there are costs for those benefits. The service to all the communities is to determine the appropriate size of the facility, as well as the best location and do so in a manner that takes into consideration the cost to its current and future taxpayers. The beautiful high school I look out at every day should remind everyone of the lessons learned from the taxpayers.

The District Library Board has indicated that they need three acres of land to build a 50,000-square-foot building and to accommodate parking. Neither the Library's attorney, architect nor members of the board could even ballpark the costs for any of the possible locations. They were not open to phasing the library, but they are sure they need a library over 4 times the size of the current facility.

While the City remains open and willing to assist.

Sincerely,

Kerreen Conley

Mayor, City of Belleville

Thanks to Lorincz family for all the skates

To the Editor:

The BYC would like to thank the Lorincz family for their generous donation of over 50 pairs of ice skates for use at the BYC family ice rink in Belleville. The skates will be made available to all area residents who visit the ice rink at Fourth Street Mall during Winterfest activities this Dec. 1st.

Sincerely,

Ted Mull, BYC Secretary

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— Albert Einstein

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More Letters

VBTT Trustee Reggie Miller thanks supporters

To the Editor:

I wanted to take the opportunity to extend my sincere and heartfelt appreciation to all of the residents who supported me in both the primary and general election for Van Buren Township Trustee. I am both honored and grateful to serve my community in this new capacity.

I also wanted to thank all of the candidates and incumbents for stepping up and offering to serve our community. All of these individuals need to be thanked for their efforts in wanting to serve our Township and those who have dedicated their endless time to make this a better community for us all.

It has been a real pleasure to talk with many of the residents these last several months, and I appreciated all of the feedback. I decided to run for Trustee because I wanted to make a difference in my community and I will continue to be dedicated to Van Buren Township for years to come.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to earn your trust and represent you for the next four years.

Reggie Miller, Van Buren Township



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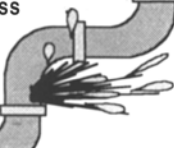
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Obituaries



Martha M. Hardesty

MARTHA MAGDALINE HARDESTY

(October 12, 1913 - November 25, 2012)

Martha Magdaline Hardesty, age 99 of Alpena, MI, formerly of Belleville, passed away on Sunday, November 25, 2012 at Touch of Country Adult Foster Care Home, Alpena. She was born in Fredericktown, Missouri on October 12, 1913, daughter of the late Luther K. and Lucy E. (Vandergriff) Hibbits.

Martha is survived by 4 children, Gerald (Ann) Hardesty of Ossineke, MI, Catherine Coler of Belleville, MI, Michael (Carol) Hardesty of Stockbridge, MI and Carole (Randall) Davenport of Woodbury, TN. Also, 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Hardesty was a member of the Northland Baptist Church, Ossineke, MI. She enjoyed attending church, crocheting, quilting and cooking.

Preceded in death by her husband Grover in 2002, a son Ronald (Jeanette) Hardesty, 3 sisters Ellen Miller, Mary Robertson and Ruth Downey, 3 brothers George Hibbits, Evertt Hibbits and John Hibbits. Also, a son-in-law, Roger Coler.

Visitation was held from 5-8 PM on Wednesday, followed by a funeral service on Thursday, November 29, 2012 at 12 PM with an hour prior visitation at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI. 48111. Pastor Robert J. White will serve as officiant. Interment will be in Washtenong Memorial Park, Ann Arbor, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Building Fund for Northland Baptist Church, 8916 US 23, Ossineke, MI. 49766 and would be greatly appreciated by the family. Please sign Martha's on-line guestbook and share a memory for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



DAVID ALLEN GAMSJAGER

(July 26, 1948 - November 19, 2012)

Age 64, a 40-year Belleville-area resident. Survived by brothers Steven, Donald and Daryl and sister Carol. Served in the U.S. Army. Service was Nov. 24 at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel.

LUCAS BRIAN McINTOSH

(November 16, 2012 - November 16, 2012)

Born November 16 and passed later that day at University of Michigan Hospital. Son of Brian and Megan (McGrail) McIntosh of Westland. Survived by 2 sisters, Grace and Hannah. David C. Brown Temporary Viewing Chapel.

Lincoln Golden Ages Senior center sets annual rummage sale

The Lincoln Golden Ages Senior Center will hold its annual rummage sale fund raiser on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Dec. 5, 6 and 7, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

Besides the treasures in the rummage sale, there will be poinsettia plants and baked goods. Plants can be ordered early by calling (734) 483-8366.

The senior center is located at 8970 Whittaker Road. Entrance is on the west side of Brick Elementary School.



More Letters

Angel of Hope ceremony is Thursday, Dec. 6

To the Editor:

We invite the public to a special candlelight memorial, Angel of Hope, in honor of our beloved children that have gone before us. This short but solemn evening of dedication and honor is set aside each year on Dec. 6 in loving tribute to the memory of our beloved and greatly missed deceased children, regardless of age. Time is 7 p.m.

The "Angel of Hope", also known as the Christmas Box Angel Statue, was introduced to the world in the book "The Christmas Box", a worldwide bestseller and hit television movie by author Richard Paul Evans.

In the fictional story, a woman mourns the loss of her child at the base of an angel monument. An angel statue was commissioned by Evans, in response to reports that grieving parents were seeking out the angel as a place to grieve and heal.

The first statue was dedicated on Dec. 6, 1994 in Salt Lake City. As news of the angels spread, people from around the world contacted Evans so they, too, could have an Angel erected closer to them.

Belleville is one of these proud homes of an "Angel" as of 2002. The Angel is 4'3"

tall, and has a wingspan of 5'2". The public is welcome to visit this monument which is located just within Belleville's Hillside Cemetery. Engraved bricks surrounding the statue can also be purchased through the city.

The "Angel" represents HOPE and her garden is a place of peace and serenity for all parents and families to visit. The site represents a place to grieve and heal for all our angels. The loss of a child, regardless of age is insurmountable and we need to keep their "light" shining on with our love.

Candles, hot chocolate and flowers for the dedication will be provided. Please feel free to bring a weatherproof ornament to decorate the spruce tree located near the angel.

Please call the Brown Family Center of Belleville, MI at 734-697-5090 to let us know if you want your child's name announced during the ceremony.

Sincerely,

Mary Martinez, Grief Coordinator
Brown Funeral Home / Brown Family Center

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More Letters

We need to stand behind Police Chief Taylor

To the Editor:

Re: Chief Taylor's demotion and Kerren Conley up to her old tricks.

I was truly saddened to read about Chief Taylor's demotion and know what is going on is wrong. I was about as sad as when I read that Kerreen won as the mayor of Belleville.

She's had some impressive jobs in the past, so did people think she was more qualified? Why would Belleville elect a person who has lots of money – making around \$100,000 a year – to lead a small community that lives paycheck to paycheck? How does she know what it feels like to struggle and get frustrated at higher taxes? We fired her once as city manager for not being able to do her job. Why would anyone want her back?

Belleville, we must stand behind Chief Taylor. We don't know all the facts, but if repairs had to be made on a vehicle and he paid for it, so be it. Would not an employer be overwhelmed that an employee took pride in his work and helped out with no compensation?

That's just a snow job to the real problem – Kerreen wants him out to save money. This one incident in Chief Taylor's career is enough for a demotion and to tarnish his wonderful career? Seriously?

Kerreen did the same thing when she was city manager back in 1996. You see, there was a lady who was the city clerk for about 20 years. She did about every job at city hall as she had a work ethic and loved the people of Belleville and those she worked with. Many there called her "Mom" as they felt at home with her – see, she didn't have a lot of money or formal training, only the desire to help.

She was at a council meeting in 1988 when Chief Taylor came in to take her to her son who just collapsed on his way to the A&W and died. No one can imagine her pain unless they had lost a child themselves.

She continued working, even though the doctor told her she had a broken heart. But

later on, she developed breast cancer. She had surgery and went back to work. She later would go to work, go to the hospital for a chemotherapy treatment, and then go back to work. She rarely took any time off – even for vacation and even with cancer, she still accumulated a lot of sick and vacation time.

She was cancer-free for five years. But city hall personnel changed and things got testy there. The city clerk was being put under stress as Kerreen wanted her to retire. When things failed at work or she needed something and Kerreen would not approve it, she kept going.

See, she was a quiet lady, but one tough cookie if you messed with her. She got a letter from Kerreen, seemingly being thoughtful in giving her well wishes when she was out on leave. But, Kerreen took it to a new level and hand wrote on the letter in the effect of "by the way, have you thought about when you will retire?"

My mom could not believe she wrote that. She never wanted to retire. She told Kerreen over and over that. Just one big job she did was set up the records in the cemetery on computer. See, records were only kept in a book back then – not very efficient or accurate.

This city clerk ended up retiring as the stress was getting to her. You might know her as Agnes Frisch – I knew her as Mom. She died in 1997. Her doctor wanted to do a study on her as they were surprised she survived ten years with the cancer.

So Kerreen is back to her old tricks – get rid of the older employees and bring in newer ones and save a few bucks. I am very shocked she came back as she didn't want to move to Belleville and drug her feet to move here (requirement in being a city manager back then) as it wasn't classy enough for her.

Now, I was shocked to learn that the city manager now doesn't have to live in Belleville. If you recall, there were many qualified candidates in the past for city manager, but they didn't want to uproot their family. But Ms. Kollmeyer has it in her contract...but how come the others weren't able to do that?

We need to stand behind Chief Taylor as it is wrong what is going on. We can't have things just slip under the rug as Kerreen probably hopes. She isn't worried about

fighting for her job – only the lawsuit she had against Wayne County and a supposed severance package she was to get which could net her well over \$300,000. I think her mind is elsewhere than running the city.

Charlene Frisch-Eller
Sumpter Township

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Nov. 29** – The African American Book Group meets at the library at 7 p.m. This month's book is "Fences" by August Wilson.

• **Saturday, Dec. 1** – Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce's Winter Fest is all day. Parade is 6 p.m.

• **Saturday, Dec. 1** – Holiday Arts & Crafts Show/Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Road.

• **Saturday, Dec. 1** – Open family swim for the community at new pool at BHS, 1-3 p.m., cost \$5 per swimmer.

• **Sunday, Dec. 2** – Bugles Across America, 7:15 p.m., at Veterans Memorial on High Street, Belleville, to honor the military, past and present.

• **Wednesday, Dec. 5, Thursday, Dec. 6, and Friday, Dec. 7** – Lincoln Golden Ages Senior Center is holding its annual rummage sale fundraiser, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Poinsettia plants, baked goods. Order plants early at (734) 483-8366. Sale is at 8970 Whittaker Rd., entrance on west side of Brick Elementary School.

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Brunch with Santa will be held on Sunday, Dec. 16, from noon until 3 p.m. at the **Bayou Grill** on Main Street. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling (734) 697-2300.

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Independent photo by Bob Mytych

The new Janowiak Funeral Home on Sumpter Road just south of Bemis should be open in the next couple of weeks, according to owners Chris and Sandy Janowiak. All new furniture is being delivered this week that will compliment the newly remodeled interior. Watch for a grand opening event in this newspaper.

The *Independent* office here at **152 Main Street** is one of the drop-off locations for **Toys for Tots** this holiday season. Unwrapped toys can be dropped off here during regular business hours, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (734) 699-9020.

The annual juried Arts & Crafts Show is taking place this Saturday at the **Van Buren Township Municipal Center**; from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Admission is free.

Need extra money for the holidays? **Café LLC** aka **Mike Colletta** of **Lakeside Jewelers** is a buyer of unwanted gold, diamonds, silver, jewelry, and coins. A

(continued on page 11)

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(continued from page 1)

ages.

Awards will be given out to different age groups, including most festive, jingliest, overall male and female 5K, masters male and female 5K, fastest teacher, and to the school with the most pre-registered students. For last-minute information, email vbpfef@gmail.com. or visit www. active.com.

Children's Christmas Ornament Workshops set Dec. 8, 15 at museum

Children's Christmas Ornament Workshops will be held at the Belleville Area Museum on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1 p.m., and a second workshop, hosted by the Girl Scouts, will take place on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 12 p.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.

Children will craft four ornaments to take home. Cost of the workshop is \$2 per child and includes a tour of the museum's Festival of Holiday Trees.

Santa will be available for photos both days upstairs at the museum.

Pre-registration for the workshops is not required but encouraged.

The Belleville Area Museum is located at 405 Main Street in downtown Belleville. For more information, call the museum at 734-697-1944.



Belleville's former Mayor Richard Smith recently took this picture of two eagles on the banks of Belleville Lake behind his house. Smith said he has seen the eagles in that tree on the bank several times this fall, often for four hours at a time. Richard and Phyllis Smith have dubbed the birds "Edge" and "Mont". The Edgemont Elementary School mascot is an eagle and Phyllis is a retired teacher from Edgemont.

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(continued from page 9)

licensed precious metal dealer, Colletta has been doing business in downtown Belleville for more than 25 years. Call (734) 697-9110 to make an appointment.

The judging for the Belleville Chamber's sponsored business decorating contest takes place Friday evening around town. The winner will be announced just prior to the start of the parade Saturday evening.

Main Street Computers, a software and web services provider based in Belleville, is teaming up with **Help's On Its Way**, a clothes, food and spiritual support charity in Dearborn Heights, to help raise money to expand their facilities and services to Southeast Michigan.

The non-profit group has a goal to reach \$50,000 by the end of the year. As a way of support Main Street Computers, now celebrating its 30th year in business, has committed to give \$1 to the organization for every LIKE they receive on their Facebook page. The place to click on is www.Facebook.com/MainStreetComputersinc. For details, call **Kevin Winningham** at 1-800-698-6246 or visit www.mainstreetcomp.com.

Our directory of area churches and their services is still growing and your church can be added to our list at the great rate of \$75 for 13 consecutive weeks in a one-column-by-one-inch-tall display box.

There's still time to take advantage of our **Put A Little Color in Your Holiday** advertising promotion until the end of the year. When you purchase display advertising this month, you can get free color for the month of December. Just pay the cost for black & white. To learn more, call me at (734) 699-9020.

This year's Winter Fest on Saturday is gearing up to be the best one ever as our town officially opens the holiday season with our Jingle Bell Fun Run/Walk in the morning and ends with fireworks over the lake around 7:30 p.m. In between all that is the skating rink and entertainment at the Council for the Arts' entertainment stage at Fourth Street Square, the popular evening parade of lights, our official tree lighting, visits with Santa, and tons of other fun stuff.

A list of Downtown restaurants are taking part in the first-annual Soup Crawl, where ticket holders can travel around and sample the different soups that will be available. If you plan on checking out the ice sculptures up and down Main Street, arrive as early as possible before they begin to melt later in the day with the temps forecasted in the upper 40's by parade time.

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Psalms 33:12a

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

Belleville DDA votes to proceed with action on capture of zoo millage

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Following a 25-minute closed-door session on Nov. 19, the Belleville Downtown Development Authority voted unanimously to proceed with action on a legal agreement concerning the capture of zoo millage.

The DDA also voted to ask the Belleville City Council, which was meeting later that evening, to add this to its agenda to concur with DDA action.

The council did add it to the end of its agenda and voted unanimously to concur with the DDA action.

DDA coordinator Carol Thompson said the support of the council did not obligate it to spend any money on the action, which could end up in a law suit.

The DDA is joining with several municipalities in Wayne County to seek an end to the dispute between the county and local DDAs, TIFs, and LDFAs on the capture of the zoo millage, which was approved by voters in 2008.

Thompson said bonds that were issued with the full faith and credit of the city need the tax income and there is a disagreement on interpretation of the tax capture language.

On Sept. 6, Wayne County Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz sent letters to local municipalities concerning "Capture of the Wayne County Zoological Millage." Thompson said the letters should have been sent to the DDAs and so the letters were delayed getting to the various groups.

Wojtowicz referred to a previous letter of Feb. 23 that he sent out seeking help on behalf of the Wayne County Zoological Authority. His concern was that certain taxing units within Wayne County have been capturing the 0.1 mill levied and collected for the public support of the Detroit Zoo.

He said the obligation of the Zoo Authority is to levy the tax and pay all funds collected from the levy to the Detroit Zoological Society. He said these rights are protected under the Michigan Constitution.

Terry Carroll, Van Buren Township Director of Planning and Economic Development, explained the situation in a memo to the

Local Development Finance Authority (L DFA) board of trustees prior to its Nov. 13 meeting where the issue was discussed.

He explained the county treasurer is requesting that local units of government in Wayne County refrain from capturing tax increment revenues for the zoo millage.

In the event that a local unit continues to capture this millage, the Wayne County Treasurer will charge the community back at the time of tax collection and make the payment to the Zoological Authority.

Even though the VBT L DFA was not specifically mentioned in the Wayne County Treasurer's letter, it is one of the locals units of government vehicles that is used to capture these funds and, therefore, would be subject to this action, Carroll wrote.

He pointed out that the recently approved millage for the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) is very similar to the zoo situation.

Carroll said legal counsel for Wayne County have indicated that they soon will be issuing a similar letter to local units of government covering the same issue with the DIA.

Carroll told the L DFA that there is a working group of DDAs and LDFAs in Wayne County that has started meeting in order to discuss the County Treasurer's authority to do what is suggested in the letter.

"There are also concerns about how many other taxing authorities will be affected and why the provisions of the state acts under which these tax increment captures are authorized are not being followed by the Wayne County Treasurer for the opt outs," Carroll wrote.

"Since we have until next February before the next tax bill is due, it is the recommendation of the staff that the L DFA wait and see what comes out of the county-wide working group," Carroll said.

At its Nov. 13 meeting the L DFA board asked for more research on the situation.

Carroll said the L DFA board doesn't want to get involved in the cost of this consortium because of the upcoming shortfall of funds. They are hoping the opt out part of the statute will be followed.

In the letter from Wojtowicz to VBT Treasurer Sharry Budd, he states that not sending the millage on to the zoo authority "may have unintended consequences including a potential violation of your officeholders bond covenants with all of its ramifications to local municipalities that

continue to capture the zoo millage.

"Should a local treasurer suffer the revocation of an officeholder's bond, it would necessitate the assumption of the treasurer's responsibilities by the Office of the Wayne County Treasurer."

He said, "Commencing in December, 2012, the amount of the zoo levy captured by a local municipality, its DDA, TIFA, Brownfield or any other taxing authority or unit, will cause the chargeback of a like amount at time of settlement."

Wojtowicz also stated that he had previously

supplied municipalities with a letter from the office of Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox, which has been affirmed by the office of Attorney General Bill Schuette, concerning his actions.

"Further, Wayne County Corporation Counsel is prepared to defend the action of my office should there be a challenge to my actions, including the right to seek collection of unpaid taxes, past and present consequential damages.

"I would encourage the consultation with

(continued on page 14)



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Civil Service Commission packet details charges against Gene Taylor

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Former Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor, who was demoted to corporal on Oct. 30, will come before the Belleville Civil Service Commission (CSC) at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, to formally appeal his demotion.

Taylor's attorney Tom DiPietro appeared on his behalf at the Nov. 14 meeting of the CSC and requested that subpoenas for two witnesses be issued so that they could offer testimony in the appeal.

The CSC unanimously agreed to postpone the appeal hearing until Dec. 11 so the

witnesses could be summoned.

DiPietro also asked that CSC chairman Michael Loria recuse himself from the appeal since Loria's father, Jack Loria, is on the city council which agreed to Taylor's demotion. No decision was made on that request.

The witnesses to be subpoenaed are Belleville Police Corporal Todd Schrecengost and Fred Kerschweg, owner of F&R Automotive Car Care, 34855 Michigan Ave., Wayne.

The details of Taylor's discipline were mentioned in passing at the Nov. 14 meeting of the CSC, but the *Independent* filed a Freedom of Information Act request and received the packet prepared for members of the CSC giving details. The information was made available after last week's edition of the paper was on the presses. Cost of the packet was \$15.25.

An Oct. 30 memo from City Manager Diana J. Kollmeyer gave its subject: Discipline – Violation of City Charter & Disregarding City Manager Directive.

She explained: "This discipline is being issued to you for knowingly violating section 15.8 Purchase Procedure of the Belleville City Charter. For circumventing the Purchasing and Procedures Ordinance adopted by the Belleville City Council and for insubordination."

Kollmeyer states that "all evidence" indicates that Taylor knew the Charter requirement, knowingly chose to disregard the Charter, misrepresented information to a vendor who has in good faith delivered service, and intentionally disregarded her directive issued on or about April 1, 2011 in which all department heads were required to receive prior authorization for all purchases over \$50.

"The actions exhibited by you are serious offenses and are not being taken lightly," Kollmeyer continues.

"The Charter provides for penalties for violation of the City Charter, the

Correction:

Chief Taylor made \$49 payments on repairs from department funds

Belleville's Police Chief Gene Taylor made payments on a 2011 patrol car repair in \$49 increments out of the police department budget, not out of his own pocket as the *Independent* erroneously reported in last week's story.

The *Independent* had no printed information on the charges at the time the story was written and neither City Manager Diana Kollmeyer or Taylor would comment on the specific reason for Taylor's demotion.

The *Independent* misinterpreted part of oral comments by the city's attorney, John Hitchcock, and Taylor's attorney, Tom DiPietro, and for this we apologize.

-- Rosemary K. Otzman, Editor

Civil Service hand book provides that the step following a written reprimand is a disciplinary status. On June 18, 2012 you received a written reprimand for insubordination as a result of not keeping me informed about the operation of the Police Department."

Kollmeyer then spells out the background of the charges.

"During your sick leave commencing July 1, 2012 through today, a matter of utmost concern was brought to my attention. A police patrol vehicle was in need of repair. A Belleville Police Officer contacted F&R Automotive Car Care about making the needed repair.

"Mr. Fred Kerschweg the owner of F&R Automotive stated that he was not sure he was interested in making the repair due to issues he had with delayed and partial payments for a repair he made dating back to early 2011.

"I personally spoke with Mr. Kerschweg," Kollmeyer continued, "and he stated that when he agreed to make the repair in 2011 you told him that you did not have the funds in your budget to pay him in full for the repair but could pay him in increments

of \$49 payments because you had made a deal with City Council.

"This is a direct violation of the Belleville City Charter and purchasing ordinance in addition to a violation of my direct order."

Kollmeyer continued: "further, I have verified that you indicated that you knew this was not proper procedure and that you were not taking this to City Council for approval as an over-\$500 expenditure because you had made a deal with City Council. This is a direct violation of the City Charter. This payable occurred during a time when my directive to Department Heads was that any purchases over \$50 would require City Manager authorization prior to the purchase due to cash flow issues.

"On Oct. 29, 2012 I met with you and explained the information set forth above. You were given an opportunity to provide any documents or statements in your defense. You provided no additional information other than to confirm that you did indeed make the above-stated deal with F&R Automotive Car Care.

"You have blatantly disregarded the City Charter requirements regarding purchasing. Further you have knowingly violated my directive.

"Due to the very serious nature of this matter I have spoken with City Council Members and made them aware of your City Charter violation."

Kollmeyer then laid out the discipline: "This matter is serious, and warrants serious action, you are hereby demoted for a period of six months as Police Chief and will return to your former rank of Corporal. The purpose of this demotion is to make certain that you understand the severity of your misconduct and that you understand this lack in judgment is not acceptable and cannot be tolerated.

"At the end of the six months you will be re-evaluated and discussion will continue regarding your return as Belleville Police Chief.

"If you disagree with this discipline you may appeal my decision to the Civil Service Commission by filing a written request for a hearing with the Commission within 10

(continued on page 15)

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Zoo millage

(continued from page 12)

your legal counsel before any further zoo millage funds are captured,” Wojtowicz concluded.

The VBT Downtown Development Authority held a special meeting on Nov. 13 to discuss its budget and holiday decorations, and to hold a closed-door session to consider a legal opinion from DDA legal counsel.

VBT DDA Director Susan Ireland said the DDA board voted to allocate up to \$10,000 in its budget to work with the consortium on the zoo millage capture issue.

Another special VBT DDA meeting was held Tuesday, Nov. 27, with only one item on the agenda: to approve the Engagement Letter to take part in the consortium.

This would “get the ball rolling,” Ireland said.

Van Buren Township Board of Trustees Notice of Meeting Cancellations and setting of special meeting

The regular township board meetings of Dec. 4 and Dec. 18, and the corresponding work study sessions of Dec. 3 and Dec. 17 have been cancelled.

A special board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m. A special work study is scheduled for 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, in the board room at township hall, 46425 Tyler Rd. Following the 4 p.m. work study session on Dec. 10, the board will meet in closed session to discuss Michigan Association of Fire Fighters (MAFF) contract negotiations.

Published as a public service



Sumpter Township Public Notice



Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 23, 2012

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm by Supervisor Vawters showing present: Supervisor Vawters, Clerk Hoffman, Treasurer J. Morgan, Trustees: Bates, Hamm, & P. Morgan. Excused absence Trustee Kennedy. Also present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hurst and approximately 21 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by Bates, supported by Hamm to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of October 9, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by Hoffman, supported by J. Morgan to accept minutes of the Parks & Recreation meeting of September 19, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by Hamm, supported by Bates to accept minutes of the Planning Commission meeting of September 13, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to approve warrants totaling \$192,073.02. Roll call: Yes: Vawters, Hoffman, J. Morgan, Bates, Hamm, P. Morgan. Nay: None. Absent: Kennedy. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Parks & Recreation: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve having the 2013 Sumpter Country Fest on Memorial Day Weekend and approve the parks & recreation report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Attorney: No report.

9. Supervisor: Motion by J. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the supervisor's report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Board Response: Motion by J. Morgan, supported by P. Morgan to approve the report given by Interim Fire Chief Joe Januszyk on the training class that he attended at the Michigan Township Association. Motion carried unanimously. Treasurer J. Morgan showed a certificate that Deputy Treasurer Karen Armatis received for certified public funds

investment.

11. Old Business:

A. Motion by J. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to replace 2 large Sumpter Township Signs not to exceed \$3,400.00. Motion carried unanimously.

12. New Business:

A. Presentation by Kathleen Kovach Van Buren School Board

B. Presentation by Toni Hunt Van Buren School Board

C. Motion by Bates, supported by J. Morgan to purchase 3 grinder pumps plus parts totaling \$10,941.00. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hamm to appoint Police Officer Chaim Kozak to the position of full-time police officer. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to approve by resolution establishing an industrial development district for A2MAC1, LLC located at 8393 Rawsonville Road in Sumpter Township, commonly known as parcel 82-81-022-99-0004-704. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Announcements

14. Open Floor

15. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to adjourn at 7:34 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on October 23, 2012 at 6:40 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Publish: November 29, 2012

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Sumpter Township Public Hearing Minutes October 23, 2012

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Vawters at 6:00 pm showing present: Supervisor Vawters, Clerk Hoffman, Treasurer J. Morgan, Trustees: Bates, Hamm & P. Morgan. Excused absence Trustee Kennedy. Also present: Attorney Young and approximately 23 residents.

3. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to open the hearing for the request to create an industrial development district for the A2MAC1, LLC property located at 8393 Rawsonville Road in Sumpter Township commonly known as parcel 82-81-022-99-0004-704. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to close public hearing at 6:02 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to open the public hearing for the consideration of the request to approve a plant rehabilitation exemption for A2MAC1, LLC located at 8393 Rawsonville Road in Sumpter Township commonly known as parcel 82-81-022-99-0004-704. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman stated that the petitioner has elected to withdraw the application for plant rehabilitation. Motion carried

unanimously.

6. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to close public hearing at 6:07 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to set a public hearing for an industrial facility tax exemption on November 27, 2012 at 6:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Adjournment: Motion by Hoffman, supported by Bates to adjourn at 6:08 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Public Hearing Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on October 23, 2012 at 6:00 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Publish: November 29, 2012

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The BOARD OF REVIEW of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 3:00 p.m..

The purpose of this meeting will be:

- 1) to correct of clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact;
- 2) Homestead exemption status; and
- 3) Poverty exemptions.

Any property owner who believes they qualify should call Van Buren Township Assessing Department at 734.699.8946 prior to December 7, 2012

Leon Wright, Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: November 29, 2012; December 6, 2012

Post: November 26, 2012

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees Notice of Public Hearing

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., December 11, 2012
Board Room – Van Buren Township Hall

Agenda: Discussion regarding:

2012 Amended General Fund Budget 2013 Proposed General Fund Budget Special Revenue Funds:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
LDFA Fund
Landfill Fund
Lohr Road Project, Special Assessment District
Belleville Area Museum
9-1-1 Service Fund
Federal Forfeiture Fund
State Forfeiture Fund

The Property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of the hearing.

The compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations will be made with advance notice.

For additional information, call the Supervisor's Office at 734.699.8910

Published: November 29, 2012

Posted: November 29, 2012

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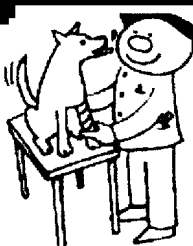
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

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Rabies 3 yr. \$16	Heartworm Test \$25	Micro Chip \$30
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PET RESORT, 50425 Bemis Rd., BELLEVILLE, Sun., Dec. 23rd, 3-6 p.m.
PET SPA, 5260 Willis Rd., YPSILANTI, Sun., Dec. 30th, 4:30-6 p.m.

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Gene Taylor

(continued from page 13)

days from the date of this discipline.

"A copy is being placed in your personnel file and filed with the Civil Service Commission," she concluded.

Taylor's attorney DiPietro said in the Nov. 14 hearing that some of Kollmeyer's statements are incorrect and that is why he has requested subpoenas for two witnesses.

In her letter of discipline, Kollmeyer refers to her June 18, 2012 written reprimand of Chief Taylor, citing "insubordination".

In that letter Kollmeyer wrote: "It is essential that in the daily operation of the City of Belleville, Department Heads must be responsive to the requests of the City Manager. With the exception of the Fire Department all of the City Departments are contained within the same building. On a daily basis Department Heads have complete access to the City Manager."

"On multiple occasions you have been expected to spend quality time in your office in an effort to be available to citizens of the Community, employees of your department and to the City Administration. I have also asked you to keep me updated regarding the administration of your department."

"On June 6, 2012 I requested that you contact the Interim Fire Chief to make arrangements to transfer the 2-door humvee to the Fire Department. I received

no response from you. On June 12, 2012 I once again sent you an email requesting that you immediately contact the Interim Fire Chief and make arrangements for the transfer of the 2-door humvee. To date the vehicle still occupies space in the garage and you have not contacted the Interim Fire Chief or me. I can only assume that you are not going to comply with my request to make this transfer.

"On Monday, June 11, 2012 after the Strawberry Festival briefing with your department you came to me and stated that you were hearing rumors that Corporal Kapchus was going to quit the department. On Wednesday, June 13, 2012 I was told by an employee of your department that indeed Corporal Kapchus quit Monday afternoon. As of this writing (11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 14, 2012) I have still not been informed by you that Mr. Kapchus quit and turned in his City owned equipment."

"It has become inherently clear to me that you do not intend to comply with my direction and I am forced to consider your actions or lack thereof as insubordination."

Kollmeyer then spelled out the Corrective Action: "You are hereby instructed that in the future you will keep me informed about events occurring and employee issues in your department. You will make every effort possible to comply with my requests. Continued acts of insubordination will result in further disciplinary action."

A copy was placed in Taylor's personnel file.

Taylor responded to the written reprimand on June 20, 2012:

"Thank you for your Memorandum of June 18, 2012. Please note that I have signed my acknowledgement of receipt of same and am enclosing it now per your request. I request that you place this response in my Personnel file."

"I apologize for not responding more promptly to the delivery of the HumVee to Brian Loranger. It was not intentional. Likewise, I am sorry I didn't inform you in a more prompt manner with regard to Officer Kapchus' sudden decision to quit his employment."

"These events took place during the busiest couple of weeks of the year for our Department and me. I was in the midst of setting up the policing and public safety plans for the new car shows. I was also involved in meetings and discussions concerning planning and arrangements for the Strawberry Festival, which as you know causes quite a disruption in town."

"I had doctors' appointments on June 12 and June 14, which delayed or reduced my work schedule. Also during this time, I had to leave the City to go to Homeland Security to pick up the security vehicle used for the Strawberry Festival. Finally, I had to cover Kapchus' shift after he quit."

"After calling Chief Loranger yesterday, he came over and picked up the vehicle last night."

"Please understand that I have every intention of complying with your directions and will make every effort to be more

(continued on page 16)

Gene Taylor

(continued from page 15)

responsive in the future. At the same time I hope you understand the limitations and conditions existing during the time period you inquired about. Again, my apologies. As you can see this was not an act of insubordination on my part. Thank you for the opportunity to respond," Taylor concluded.

Ten days later, on June 30, Taylor collapsed at home and was hospitalized with an undisclosed medical condition.

On Sept. 13 Taylor gave his doctor's OK to return to work to the city, but Kollmeyer did not contact him to come in for a meeting until Oct. 23. The Oct. 30 meeting she set, which he expected to be a "glad you're feeling better" and "welcome back to work" reception, was, instead, a prosecution, with a demotion.

"That's a lot to correct an employee's action," DiPietro told the CSC at its Nov. 14 meeting.

The CSC packet the *Independent* received after a FOIA request also included copies of receipts for eight monthly \$49 payments (from June 2011 to January 2012) and one \$339.60 payment for the \$731.60 worth of repairs by F&R Automotive Car Care on a 2008 Dodge Charger R/T. The final payment was approved by the city manager on March 27, 2012.

The CSC packet also included a copy of the city's purchasing policy, excerpts from the City Charter, and the CSC's Personnel Rules and Regulations.

The 9 a.m., Dec. 11, appeals hearing before the CSC will be held in the City Council meeting room and is open to the public.

Taylor has been a member of the Belleville Police Department for 35 years, joining the department on the same day and same shift as Bob Dawson in September 1977. Dawson plans to leave the department for good in mid December.

Taylor was named police chief on April 4, 2005 after the CSC recommended him over three other in-house candidates to replace Chief Paul Davis, who retired. Taylor underwent heart bypass surgery in March 2009 and returned to work from that medical event on July 1, 2009.

Birthday

Nov. 23 – Pastor John Losen

Do you have a birthday in December? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

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INDOOR GARAGE SALE -
21000 Martinsville Rd. Dec. 1st.
Only. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Christmas,
Household, Clothes, Gazebo, etc. 11/29

FOR SALE

WHIRLPOOL WASHER, \$150. Maytag
Dryer, \$100. Sears Electrolux Refrigerator
\$150. Also Furniture available.
(734) 355-2451 11/29

(3) CEMETERY PLOTS, Section 7,
Michigan Memorial Cemetery, by the
lake. Seller motivated to sell. Best Offer.
(734) 552-8047 Donnie 11/29

HOYER MEDICAL LIFT. Able to
lift up to 500 lbs. New. \$150 obo
(734) 482-4847 11/29

FRANKLIN PLUSH Rocker/Recliner,
charcoal grey, 7 mos. old. Beautiful, like
new. Must Sell. Paid \$760 asking \$350.
(734) 941-3785 11/29

GENERATOR, 4400 WATTS. Needs
fuel pump, \$75 Log chain, 20' x3/8, 2
Binders, \$40 (734) 483-1507 12/06

ELECTRIC WHEEL CHAIR
for small adult or child. \$150 obo
(734) 482-4847 12/06

STUNNING CUSTOM MARBLE
Dining Table, 7' long by 48". 8
upholstered Parsons chairs & China
Cabinet. Beautiful Must See. \$950 obo
(734) 776-2296 12/06

HIGH END FURNITURE Sale including
Cherry Bedroom & Dining Rms. Also
Victorian furniture & Marble tables.
(734) 301-6951 12/13

SANTA'S SUIT w/wig, 16" Porcelain doll,
new, in box, 1964 Fisher Price Musical
pull toy, Hand held Microphone w/stand,
Clip-on Microphone, 1960's green candy
dish, jar of old marbles & Maple tea cart
w/glass shelves. (734) 697-9628 12/13

COMPUTER, VGC, \$75. Antique sofa,
beautiful hand carved frame, VGC, \$500
obo. Roman picture (print) VGC, \$50.
(734) 740-8285 12/13

(4) WHITE WALL TIRES. P 270/70 R15
975. \$100 (734) 697-2250 12/13

PETS/LIVESTOCK

(8) ROTTWEILER PUPPIES, 5 Females,
\$250 ea., 3 Males, \$200 ea. Ready
Nov. 1st. Dew claws cut, tails clipped.
(734) 559-4553 11/29

VEHICLE FOR SALE

C.T.S. AUTO Engines, Transmissions
Discount Prices - Guaranteed!
(734) 282-1700 TFN

1998 MERCURY TRACER. High
mileage, needs work. \$550 obo
(734) 483-1707 12/06

2001 MERCURY SABLE. 103,000 miles
\$2100 obo (734) 752-2501 12/13

WANTED

WANTED: JUNK CARS

Running or Not. Top \$
Paid. Call For Free
Pickup. Drive In For
Extra Dollars.

734-282-1700

WE BUY JUNK CARS

7 Days A Week For
\$300 & Up!
Cash Paid!
(734) 787-1444

WANTED - ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS
for the homeless. Please drop off at
Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive.
(734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED - SMALL CONTAINERS
of Shampoo, Toothpaste, etc. to take
to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at
Bladez's, 601 E. Huron River Dr.
(734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED - ICE SKATES for the Family
Ice Rink at Winter Fest. Will accept
used & new skates. Drop off skates at
Davenport Brothers Construction Co.,
299 Industrial Pk. Dr. in Belleville. TFN

WANTED - HARD COVER Reader
Digest Books. (734) 697-2250 12/13

WANTED - BABYSITTER - Non-
Smoking woman for 1 & 3 yr. old's.
Flexible hours, VBT. \$9/hr. Must have
own transportation. (734) 981-9451 12/13

GENE & SON TOWING. WE BUY
Junk Cars. Top Dollar paid. We pick
up. 7 days a week. (734) 502-4017 or
(734) 686-1250 12/20

FREE

MILLIE BAKER CLARENCE ST.
YOU'VE Won a dozen free roses. Pick
them up at Main St. Flower's downtown,
Belleville. (734) 697-7400 or www.mainstreetflowersbelleville.com TFN

FOUND

YOUNG GIRLS BASEBALL CAP
found at Belleville High School, night
of elections 11-06-12. For details call
(734) 699-9020 11/29

HEAVY GOLD ID Bracelet with
monograms. Call with details.
(734) 699-9020 11/29

LOST

FEMALE ROTTWEILER MIX DOG.
Long tail, Blk/Tan, 6 mos. old. Vicinity
Haggerty & Ecorse Rds. 11-05-12.
REWARD. (734) 612-1032 11/29

FOR LEASE

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL Building on
large lot for lease, all or part, up to 6,400
sq.ft., ideal for storage or business.
Sumpter Rd. near Belleville. Call Larry
(734) 502-3293 11/29

STORAGE

CAR, BOAT, or misc. storage
inside secure building. Call
Larry (734) 502-3293 11/29

FOR RENT

**PAY ONLY \$0 FIRST
MONTHS RENT!**

**Swan Creek MHC
Homes Available For
Rent From \$660 Per
Month. Call Us Today At
(734) 961-4707**

HOME FOR RENT. ROMULUS Area.
3 BR. Plus. \$750/mo.
(734) 417-7759 12/06

LAKE FRONT - 1 BR., 1 Bath Apt.
w/Fireplace, New kitchen. Park like
setting. Great Sun Sets. No Pets, No
smoking. \$675/mo. Heat included.
(734) 968-8897 11/29

1 BR. APT. corner of 5th & Liberty St.
\$575/mo. plus security. Includes heat
& water. 1 yr. lease. Must have good
credit. No Pets. (734) 945-2409 TFN

FOR RENT

NEW BOSTON - 1 BR. DUPLEX. C/A
& Heat. 1 mile from freeway. Available
December 1st. \$500/mo. Plus security.
(734) 740-3515 TFN

Efficiency Apt. in Lincoln Park.
Utilities paid by owner. \$450/mo.
(734) 730-7205 12/06

2 BR. APARTMENT. Includes Washer/
Dryer, Dishwasher, Patio & Privacy
fence. \$650/mo. Water & Trash pick-up
included. (734) 796-3033 12/13

HOME FOR RENT, ROMULUS Area.
2 BR. Plus. \$750/mo.
(734) 417-7759 12/06

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2 bath Homes!
Starting as low as \$749/month!
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EHO Expires January 1, 2013
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Accepting All Applications!
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Swan Creek MHC
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected runs for VBT Police.
For more detailed police logs, see www.bellevilleareaindependent.com.

Sunday, Nov. 18:

0041 – disturbance, Rawsonville/I-94
0111 – fraud, 10562 Belleville, Walmart
0129 – missing person, 46145 Village Green Ln.
0142 – noise complaint, 46121 Village Green Ln.
0206 – disturbance, 10950 Belleville Rd.
0913 – larceny, 48021 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0954 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Westlake Cir.

1003 – larceny from auto, 41460 W. Archwood Dr.
1047 – assault & battery, 11566 Wilson Ave.
1055 – property damage accident, 11566 Wilson Ave.

1144 – malicious destruction of property, 9830 Wheeler St.
1512 – retail fraud, Meijer
1754 – property damage accident, NB I-275 south of Ecorse

2147 – noise complaint, 49031 S. I-94 Service Dr.
Monday, Nov. 19:
0123 – malicious destruction of property, 42436 Winding Pond Dr.

0154 – shots fired, 48771 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0720 – malicious destruction of property, 8813 Ironwood Dr.

0951 – private property accident, 11530 Belleville
1042 – malicious destruction of property, 10844 Jackson St.

1046 – private property accident, 41358 Ecorse Rd
1338 – malicious destruction of property, 6257 W. Adams

1458 – larceny, 8012 Kirkridge Park Drive
1647 – assault & battery, 12210 Westlake
1732 – sexual assault, 41577 S. Bellridge Dr.

1749 – property damage accident, NB I-275 / Ecorse
2321 – breaking & entering, 41539 Hamlin St.

Tuesday, Nov. 20:
0027 – narcotics crime, 42365 Tyler Rd.
0549 – noise complaint, 46141 Village Green Ln.
0629 – disturbance, 6820 Haggerty Rd.

0715 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Lighthouse
0908 – larceny, 6895 Anna Dr.

0912 – malicious destruction of property, 10900 Lighthouse Dr.
1008 – assault & battery, 46161 Village Green Ln.
1015 – malicious destruction of property, 43244 Pond Bluff Dr.

1201 – malicious destruction of property, 401 Sumpter Rd.
1211 – malicious destruction of property, 6329 Greenwood Ct.

1211 – private property accident, 51207 America
1219 – larceny, 43717 Forestdale Dr.
1350 – trespassing, 44370 Robson Rd.

1414 – larceny, 47232 McBride
1532 – fight, 129 S. Ponderosa Trl.
1636 – indecent exposure, 11530 Belleville Rd.

1826 – property damage accident, 10760 Belleville
1902 – trespassing, 46121 Village Green Ln.
1941 – assault & battery, 5880 Winchester St.

2034 – shots fired, 48345 Bayshore Dr.
2134 – property damage accident, 9555 Haggerty Rd., WCCC

2142 – suicide or attempt, 45501 S. I-94 Service
2207 – fraud, Meijer
2247 – assault & battery, 41611 S. Bellridge Dr.

2259 – larceny, Walmart
2337 – larceny, 46425 Tyler Rd.

Wednesday, Nov. 21:
0047 – fight, 27 Ash Dr.
0053 – assault & battery, 48741 S. I-94 Service

0236 – assault & battery, 49110 Denton
0717 – larceny from auto, 10760 Belleville Rd.
0946 – private property accident, Belleville Square

1001 – weapons violation, 47097 McBride Ave.
1008 – harassment call, 6055 Victoria St.
1110 – larceny, 46161 Village Green Lane

1123 – malicious destruction of property, 45707 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1135 – retail fraud, 10915 Belleville Rd.
1218 – dumping complaint, Beck/Ecorse

1237 – assault & battery, 46425 Tyler Rd.

1332 – breaking & entering, 16175 Haggerty Rd.
1720 – property damage accident, Meijer
1742 – trespassing, 6 Maple Dr.
2339 – mental, 51334 Capitol Dr.

Thursday, Nov. 22:
0026 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Haggerty

0509 – fraud, Meijer
0914 – harassment call, 8944 Parkwood Dr.
1148 – operating while intoxicated, Cork & Bottle
1525 – dumping complaint, Beck/Ecorse
1537 – assault & battery, 7900 Hannan Rd.
1550 – shots fired, 46000 Hull Rd.
2203 – loud party complaint, 13928 Kahla Dr.
2226 – fight, 8848 Ironwood Dr.
2247 – shots fired, 50935 Old Michigan Rd.

Friday, Nov. 23:
0105 – fraud, Meijer
0705 – breaking & entering, 6855 Haggerty Rd.
0920 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Ecorse
0922 – harassment call, 15615 Martinsville Rd.
0957 – intimidation threat, TCF Bank
1027 – private property accident, 10705 Belleville
1149 – harassment call, 9259 Parkwood Dr.
1149 – assault & battery, 10894 Oak Lane
1748 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 14280 Hoeft Rd.

1946 – larceny, 2095 Rawsonville, Kmart
2127 – narcotics crime, 10950 Lighthouse Dr.
2245 – assault & battery, 41482 Archwood

Saturday, Nov. 24:
0501 – property damage accident, WB I-94 rest area

0931 – malicious destruction of property, 13676 Beacon Trl.
1301 – disturbance, 5957 Vernon St.

1310 – breaking & entering, 42797 S. Sadie Ln.
1539 – ATV/ORV complaint, 39 Maple Dr.
1700 – fraud, Walmart

1715 – property damage accident, Meijer
2235 – breaking & entering motor vehicle, 9624 Belleville Rd.

Sunday, Nov. 25:
0052 – harassment call, 48761 Denton Rd.
1519 – fraud, 48910 Denton Rd.

1551 – trespassing, 23 Locust Dr.
1929 – fraud, 10940 Belleville Rd.
2301 – fraud, Walmart

Also on this week's log are 164 traffic stops, with 37 of these on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 18:

0048 – suspicious person, 222 Belle Villa Blvd.
0902 – p.b.t. alcohol, 6 Main St.
1445 – suspicious person, South Middle School
1506 – assist citizen, 6 Main St.

1716 – violation of public health code/violation controlled substance act

1942 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.
2016 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.
2222 – disturbance, 224 S. Liberty St.

Monday, Nov. 19:
1056 – follow up, 575 Sumpter Rd., Co-Op Apts.
1200 – fraud, 6 Main St.

1505 – welfare check, 57 Loza Lane
1635 – larceny, 166 Belle Villa Blvd.

Tuesday, Nov. 20:
0122 – miscellaneous complaint, 73 Menlo Park
0525 – miscellaneous complaint, 506 Harbour Pointe Dr.

0759 – assist fire dept., 92 Menlo Park Dr.
0856 – p.b.t. alcohol, 6 Main St.
1021 – civil matter, 6 Main St.

1444 – vehicle lockout, 208 Belle Villa Blvd.
1808 – abandoned auto, W. Waterbury Ct. / Victorian Lane

2128 – agency assist, 48345 Bayshore

Wednesday, Nov. 21:
0145 – intrusion alarm, 31 E. Huron River Dr.
1125 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 105 Main

1738 – noise complaint, 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court

1901 – animal complaint, 456 Light Tower Ct.
2059 – suspicious situation, 456 N. Liberty St.

2150 – suspicious vehicle, BHS
2351 – suspicious situation, High/Main

Thursday, Nov. 22:

0031 – noise complaint, 393 Victorian Ct.
0625 – assist citizen, 167 Main St.
0723 – miscellaneous duties, 130 S. Edgemont
0749 – malicious destruction of property, High / Church

0812 – suspicious person, 45201 Owen St., Owen Intermediate School

0837 – assist citizen, 6 Main St.
1831 – disturbance, 500 N. Liberty St.
1937 – animal complaint, 465 Victorian Ln.

2136 – motorist assist, High/Main
2135 – welfare check, 169 Second St.
2348 – animal complaint, 220 Belle Villa Blvd.

2351 – suspicious situation, 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court

Friday, Nov. 23:
0906 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave.
1228 – civil matter, 6 Main St.

1230 – domestic assault, 170 N. Liberty St.
1322 – intrusion alarm, BHS
1435 – welfare check, 170 N. Liberty St.

1440 – intrusion alarm, BHS
1618 – traffic complaint, Owen/Industrial
2029 – suspicious person, Main/W. Columbia

Saturday, Nov. 24:
0205 – intimidation threat, Lakeview
0343 – assist fire dept., 85 Carnell St.

0459 – misc. complaint, 227 Belle Villa
1112 – disorderly conduct, 265 Sumpter
1309 – intrusion alarm, BHS

1634 – civil matter, 3 San Carlos
1651 – agency assist, 41782 E. Huron River Dr.
2104 – juvenile complaint, 444 Main St.

Sunday, Nov. 25:
0114 – noise complaint, 9 Loza Lane
1031 – suspicious vehicle, Main/Roys

1150 – assist fire dept., 660 Greylock St.
1215 – civil matter, 6 Main St.
1232 – assist fire dept., 373 W. Columbia Ave.

1401 – domestic assault, 176 Belle Villa Blvd.
Also on this week's log are 90 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 18:

0013 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Lane
0102 – suspicious vehicle, 22000 bl. Fenster Ave.
0125 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

0409 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Fenster Ave.
0626 – civil dispute, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1202 – suspicious person, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.

1231 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Lane
1259 – animal complaint, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
1608 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.

1717 – trespassing complaint, 42000 bl. Willow
1746 – threats complaint, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
2130 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Judd Rd.

2158 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
2343 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Monday, Nov. 19:
0014 – family trouble, Edgewood
0749 – juvenile complaint, Timberlane

0855 – property damage accident, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0923 – citizen assist, Sumpter/Bemis

1016 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1124 – well-being check, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1408 – suspicious vehicle, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.

1652 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1906 – shots fired investigation, 46000 bl. Arkona
2254 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Rawsonville/Judd

Tuesday, Nov. 20:
0644 – suspicious person, Sumpter/Kozma
0742 – suspicious person, Sumpter/Willow

0751 – juvenile complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1118 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Sumpter/Willis

1315 – animal complaint, 25000 bl. Sumpter
1605 – assault, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1952 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.

2216 – juvenile complaint, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
Wednesday, Nov. 21:
0221 – assist other agency, Timberlane

0548 – 911 hangup investigation, 48000 bl. Judd
0837 – animal complaint, 20000 bl. Crandell Ct.
1045 – civil dispute, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.

1231 – family trouble, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1342 – property damage accident, Clark/Willow
1503 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1548 – larceny, Greenmeadow
1728 – trespassing complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1755 – citizen assist, Willow/Karr

1932 – shots fired investigation, 46000 bl. Willis
2251 – mental health commitment, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Thursday, Nov. 22:
0003 – fire dept. assist, Dakota
0020 – fight, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

0605 – fire dept. assist, no location given
0654 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Clark Rd.
1121 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico

1131 – ORV complaint, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
1659 – fire dept. assist, Birch
1906 – family trouble, Birch

2256 – violation park rules, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Friday, Nov. 23:
0029 – warrant arrest, 51000 bl. Willow Rd.
0832 – property damage accident, 21000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

0916 – alarm, 28000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1110 – suspicious incident, 20000 bl. Martinsville
1211 – animal complaint, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.

1930 – subpoena service, Rustic Lane
1938 – subpoena service, Carriage Lane
1956 – subpoena service, Carriage Lane

2251 – family trouble, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2340 – fire dept. assist, Dakota

Saturday, Nov. 24:
1032 – animal complaint, Colorado
1247 – citizen assist, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.

1332 – death investigation, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1638 – suspicious vehicle, 49000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1733 – accidental damage report, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.

1852 – assault, 48000 bl. Willis
2032 – civil dispute, 25000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

Also on this week's log are 24 miscellaneous details, 146 patrol checks, 74 traffic stops, and 15 follow-up investigations.



Ask Angela

By Angela Nettro

I am here to answer questions pertaining to buying or selling real estate. Send your questions to “Ask Angela”, c/o *Belleville-Area Independent*, 152 Main Street, Ste. 9, Belleville 48111 or send me an email at nettroandco@comcast.net. I'll answer questions in this column.

Question from Michael in Van Buren Township: I am buying a home with a new mortgage. I am doing this to help my niece out, who will also be living in the home. Is there any way at closing I can put the deed in my niece's name even though I have a mortgage on it?

Answer: After you close on the home you could sign a Quit Claim Deed back to yourself and your niece as joint tenants and have it recorded after your closing deed is recorded -- so that it will then be owned equally by both of you.

If something happens to you, your niece would be the sole owner, deed holder. She would have to continue to make the mortgage payments and property taxes or refinance the home in her own name at that time.

Also, by quit claiming to your niece she will be able to qualify for the Homestead taxes on the home.

Seller Tip: If your home is listed in the upcoming winter weather – Please be sure to have your driveways, sidewalks, steps, porches FREE of snow and ice for prospective buyers and agents.

-- Angela

ANGELA NETTRO/Broker
Angela Nettro & Co.
(734)697-6655
Email: nettroandco@comcast.net



Festival of Holiday Trees
Nov 20-Dec 29 at the Belleville Area Museum

Winter Fest
Saturday Dec 1 DOWNTOWN
Jingle Bell Run, Ice Sculptures, Ice Skating at 4th Street Square, Caroling, Holiday Movies and Cookie Decorating at the Library, Lighted Parade at 6pm, Santa and Tree Lighting, Fireworks! At 7:30pm

Children's Ornament Workshops and Visits with Santa
Dec 8 & 15 Belleville Area Museum

Winter Concert
Dec 15 Belleville Community Chorus
7pm at Belleville Methodist Church

Santa at District Library
Dec 17 6:30 - 8pm

Shop and Dine
Downtown on the Lake

Celebrate Downtown!

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The Belleville Independent is now a drop off location for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. Bring in your new, unwrapped toy to our office at:
152 Main St., Suite 9, Belleville, MI
We are located in the Professional Building (the old movie theater building) across from Mr. Goofy's Car Wash.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Dec. 3 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 5 – Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, VBT Public Safety Committee, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 10 – Van Buren Township Board work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS mini auditorium
- Tuesday, Dec. 11 – Van Buren Township LDFA, 2 p.m. Also, VBT Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, special board meeting for Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 12 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.




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50% off your exam in DECEMBER for
Annual Visit/Well Pet Appointments* (with this ad) on
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*Not valid with other discounts or specials, offer excludes exams for sick/injured pets.

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Frosty Pines Planters

A mix of Diamond Frost, greens & accents

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We carry a wide variety of:

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10% Off All Diesel
Repairs!*****



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Auto, Alloy Wheels. 24 month lease for

\$219/mo.*

UP TO \$2,000 IN REBATES.

BUY FOR \$20,285

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WISE GUYS

BAD DEALS



...Then Buy From The Right Place!



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1.6 Ecoboost, Alloy Wheels. 24 month lease for

\$191/mo.*

UP TO \$2,000 IN REBATES. BUY FOR \$21,793

All Rebates
& Payments
Expire 11/30/2012



2013 EXPLORER

24 month lease for

\$186/mo.*

UP TO \$2,000 IN REBATES. BUY FOR \$25,572

2012 F-150 SUPERCAB XLT 4X4



V8, Chrome Pkg.

24 month lease for

\$237/mo.*

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